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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing an improved *Enterobacteriaceae* strain from a progenitor *Enterobacteriaceae* strain containing a cryptic plasmid comprising the step of eliminating the cryptic plasmid from the progenitor strain thereby creating the improved strain.
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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the progenitor strain is selected from the group consisting of *Pantoea*, *Enterobacter*, *Erwinia* and *Gluconobacter*.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the *Pantoea* strain is *Pantoea citrea*.
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4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the progenitor strain is capable of producing 2,5-DKG from a carbon source.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the progenitor strain is a recombinant strain that comprises nucleic acid encoding heterologous 2,5-DKGR and is capable of converting 2,5-DKG to 2-KLG.
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6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the cryptic plasmid is pS having the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.
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7. The method of Claim 3 wherein *Pantoea citrea* has ATCC accession number 31940.
8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the improved strain is able to grow at higher temperatures than the progenitor strain.
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9. A method for reducing the mobilization properties of plasmids residing within an *Enterobacteriaceae* strain containing a cryptic plasmid, comprising the step of eliminating the cryptic plasmid from the strain.
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10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the *Enterobacteriaceae* strain produces 2,5-DKG.

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11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the *Enterobacteriaceae* strain is a recombinant strain that comprises nucleic acid encoding heterologous 2,5-DKGR and is able to convert 2,5-DKG to 2-KLG.

5 12. The method of Claim 9 wherein the *Enterobacteriaceae* strain is selected from the group consisting of *Pantoea*, *Enterobacter*, *Erwinia* and *Gluconobacter*.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein the *Pantoea* strain is *Pantoea citrea*.

10 14. The method of Claim 9 wherein the cryptic plasmid is pS having the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

15 15. The method of Claim 13 wherein *Pantoea citrea* has the ATCC accession number 31940.

16. An improved *Enterobacteriaceae* strain made by the method of Claim 1.

17. The improved *Enterobacteriaceae* strain of Claim 16 that is *Pantoea*.

20 18. An isolated nucleic acid having the sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

19. An isolated nucleic acid having the sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO :2.

25 20. An isolated amino acid having the sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.